

Arc Eleven: The Village, and Intruders

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Lazy Dungeon Master - volume 11: The village, and Intruders

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The Village

Winter had set in.

It was autumn until quite recently while I still thought it was summer, and now it's already winter.

Well, a village was established.

Yeah. A village.

I don't really get what happened that well, but it looks like the stingy adventurers that pitched tents instead of paying for the inn just decided, 'These tents are cold, let's set up some huts~?'

And then they just settled down right there. 'Yo, good morning Kehma-san!' Don't give me that. You said you'd build huts but you seriously made some respectable houses!

Moreover, other adventurers even went: 'Oh, looks good. I'll also build one... ah, how though?' 'Look no more, leave it to me!' Then settled down by building houses. The heck is this guy, is Kusan a carpenter's son? Booyah, I remembered his name from earlier!

A bar was completed next to the inn.

One of Receptionist-san's juniors joined the guild's branch office so it turned into a two-person system.

In addition, shops got built when the smell of business appeared. Thanks to that it's gotten difficult for us to sell potions and stuff. We didn't sell that much anyways though. Above all, there's no reason for me to refuse because of the permanent residents' and shopkeepers' DP.

And like this, a village formed on its own accord.

It's like someone planned this behind my back, but well it's favorable to me. The adventurer guild is suspicious. Is Kusan a spy from the guild head? Hm.

Now that they're building houses, won't there stop being guests at the inn? I thought that, but nothing like that happened. Rather, the amount of merchants increased.

Thanks to carpenters felling trees in the forest for lumber, the roadless forest

now has a road to some extent. Since its become easier to travel through, the circulation between Sia and Pavuera increased, further increasing our DP income and tunnel rental's income. It's gotten hard for the golem wagons to get rented though.

(Add on to that that since the lumber quests were put out by the guild, Meat and Ichika have increased their amount of achieved commissions.)

“Having a bar’s better after all! Right Wataru!?”

“Nooo, I’m on abstinence until I pay back my debt! Why did I have to stop drinking even though there’s a bar here now!”

“It’s alright, this is ordinary apple juice.”

“Eh, then it’s alright... wait, isn’t this alcohol!?”

“Aaah? No way Wataru. This is juice, it tastes a bit like alcohol but there’s nothing in it but juice. See?”

“Whaaaat, juice huuuh? It’s definitely juice if Gozoh-san says so, ahahaha.”

There are even farces like that, too.

Well, I don’t really have a problem with him drinking alcohol though. He’ll pay his debt back properly after all.

Nonetheless, Haku-san hasn’t come around recently. Not since I gave that ring to Rokuko.

According to the hero, Haku-san is busy and doesn’t have the time to come here, however... it feels like I’m a death row criminal waiting for execution.

Furthermore, we’re selling cards and dice to the bar, even renting out slots. As expected, simple gambling fits just right with wagering drinking money in the bar. They’re profiting from the slots even with the rental fees, so the setting is promising.

Well, the cards, dice and slots are being rented out so the game room would be vacant right? It’s nothing like that.

“Uooooh! Go, go! Number three, Yumenokuni! Aah, don’t stop there!”

While the guests were betting on the following race, the rats that ran in the previous race were given cheese to chew on.

These guys are subordinates that live in the forest, the rats that were active in our dungeon battle against Haku-san.

Moreover, when they turned into named monsters when I gave them a name for the race, they became pretty clever.

They obey my instructions faithfully and determine their order intentionally, purposely building suspense during the race. Fufufu, with these guys investigation commissions are my forte now too... It was a miscalculation though. It was a miscalculation though.

And like that, the village completed centered around the inn, rather, the dungeon.

On a certain winter day, Gozoh called me over to the bar. I thought he'd summoned me for a drinking bout or something, but it didn't feel like that. The adventurer representative Gozoh and the blacksmith Kantra, along with Kusan who'd turned up to build houses, as well as the bar's master, a shopkeeper, and the guild receptionist... the person in charge of the branch office. Everyone was here.

"Well then, today I had Kehma come here. There's an important talk to about this town at [Cave of Desires]."

"Hoh, so we're turnin' into a serious village huh... Ah, here's some refreshments. So, what's the talk?"

"Ooh! Tasty! Alright, the chief will be Kehma! Any objections!?"

Eh?

Kantra: "I consent if it's Kehma-dono."

Kusan: "Ah, I have faith in Kehma-san!"

Bar master: "None here. Ooh, this is karage. My favorite food."

Shopkeeper: "I think it's good! It'll be profitable for us."

Receptionist-san: "... I have none either."

... No one's going to stop it? What's with this flow?

"Wait, please hold up. Oi Gozoh, why'd it turn into me becoming the village chief?"

"Because you have the most free time! Other people have work... whaaat, the village chief's just a normal mediator, it's nothing different from what you've been doing so far, Kehma."

"Wouldn't Rokuko be fine then...? She's mostly free too."

“... Kehma. You’re thinking about entrusting the village to Rokuko-chan?”

... No, sorry. I said something weird there.

“But saying you’ll entrust it to me, wouldn’t I just be a figurehead?”

“Yeaah. Well, that’s generally how it is. It’s just that if something happens, the village chief decides. Everyone else also helps out.”

“Eh? That so... well, in that case...”

That should be fine then? I acknowledged becoming the village chief.

Though I have the feeling I was being led on, it’d just be troublesome if I left it to some unskilled guy.

“Well, it’s a bit fast but how about we consult the village chief?”

I knew it.

Consulting the Village Chief

“Please lend us money.”

What came out of Gozoh’s mouth was, unexpectedly, a common thing.

“Gozoh, well, that’s...”

“Nn? Not to me personally ye know? To the village.”

“... Huh? Right. So for the village’s expenses then? What would it be used for?”

It seemed to be more of a ‘please lend us money’ than ‘please pay us’ thing.

The shopkeeper grinned.

“Well, here’s the short of it. Food durin’ wintertime and as much food as needed. Taking a route that’d ensure that, Kusan’ll build communal warehouses in the village at a discount.”

“... Hey, didn’t you have some place originally to return to for wintertime?”

It’s turned into something troublesome so I said that kind of thing.

As for me, even though I wouldn’t get any DP, it’s not like I really needed it either. It isn’t that bad slowly entering the hot spring without nuisances too. Then pair that with dozing off in the massage chair.

... Hm? Everyone, your expressions froze like crazy. You’ve been quiet for a while now.

Then, the shopkeeper was the one to break the silence.

“No way, those iron golems’re great quality, there’s no way I’d do somethin’ that’d be like throwin’ away production durin’ wintertime!”

“Y-yeah, that’s right. We’ve already brought our livelihoods here after all. Right, Kusan?”

“Yeah! I’ll follow Kehma-san!”

Gozoh followed up as though trying to fill the gap, then Kusan instantly made his declaration. Why’d you say something like being my follower so proactively? I don’t even remember doing anything really.

“Well it’s fine. But wouldn’t it be a waste of money?”

“Pavuera and Sia’re always runnin’ short on iron, so it’ll definitely be worth it.

‘Sides, soon there’ll even be a huge demand for it flutterin’ in. During the winter too.”

“A huge demand huh... Needing a lot of iron, it’d be for weapons and armor... doesn’t that imply war?”

I think I heard some talks about that? Well, when I said that while recollecting, the shopkeeper had a surprised face.

Ah, looks like I was spot on.

“W-well, there’s some reasons. I don’t want to stop operatin’ here for that time.”

“So you mean it’ll be more like an investment than a loan?”

“Yah yah! Aaah as expected Kehma-han’s the best, the conversation’s already done! Ya definitely won’t lose out, how much can ya take out?”

“Really~. It’s thanks to Ichika-han workin’ part time that my shop’s even survived.”

“He’s even handled rescue commissions for the guild several times...”

“Hahahaha! We’re no match for our village chief.”

By the way, concerning Ichika, even though she independently went to work at the shop part time on her rest days and break times in order to earn money for the slot machines, they assumed that she was sent over by Kehma.

Even her wasting money on the slot machines, they just took it as Kehma decentralizing the area’s wealth.

“He even entirely saw through my profit scheme...”

“I’m sure that he has his own information network. There’s no way he doesn’t as the secretary of an inn with an A-Rank purveyor behind it.”

“Add on to that that he said we could use the inn’s warehouse, which in other words means that he expects the price to hike up quickly. And he gave so much, it’s like he wants me to buy enough to control it.”

“Did he predict that far?”

The bar’s master was amazed.

Meanwhile, Gozoh poured apple wine into Silia’s glass.

“... Hey, Silia-chan. What rank is Kehma now?”

“He had his examination a few days ago, becoming D-Rank. Rather, wasn’t

Gozoh-san his examiner?"

"I know, just wanted to ask... D-Rank huh... He's an even lower rank than me, despite how it looks... Isn't he already good enough for C-Rank?"

"As expected as not even one year has passed, he does not have enough achievements to be C-Rank."

The guild's receptionist said that while picking up some of the karage before drinking a mouthful of the apple cider.

And then, there was Kusan.

"So good, so gooood—!"

While filling his mouth with karage, his respect for Kehma elevated another level.

Subordinates' Growth

I've become both a dungeon master and a village chief. However, it's obviously not like I could use the convenient dungeon functions for the village. Me being a dungeon master is secret, it'd be bad if that got exposed. I'll only be using them for myself and for the inn. It's fine so long as I can guarantee my leisurely sleeping space.

Well, the dungeon. I think I'll be needing to rebuild coming up here soon. The reason? Hero Wataru took out nineteen magic swords. Because talks about that slowly spread to the world, the number of C-Rank adventurers here increased and have been advancing in capturing the dungeon. To be specific, more people have been exploring the labyrinth area, so it's become hard to move the labyrinth's walls around. And because of that there's been more adventurers challenging the riddle area.

Furthermore, even though they would just return to the first floor if they failed the riddle, with people twisting their ankles when being unprepared, it'd turn into a prolonged stay or being brought out on a stretcher... That, and they could even die fully armored if they landed poorly. Basically, I don't want to make a prison. Those people from before are an exception. Yep.

"Come to think of it, Rei. What happened to those guys we captured a while back?"

"They're still alive. No matter what, my offensive power is zero after all."

Rei, the silver-haired vampire, responded with a good smile. She's a good employee that works earnestly.

I don't get why they have to be alive just because her offensive power is zero, but I'll not ask anymore and leave it alone. It's definitely something I'm better off not knowing. Let's not wake up from this dream and just keep leaving it to Rei.

It's a special occasion, so I decided that I should look around and see how my subordinates are doing.

Kinue-san and Nerune were chatting in the dining room. Since it wasn't mealtime and already in the afternoon, there weren't any guests. Since people could now get light meals at the bar, things here have gotten a lot easier.

Kinue-san learned how to cook from me vaguely telling her how, so it's gotten to the point that she can even reproduce Japanese dishes to some degree. We buy flavorings like soy sauce or miso with DP. We get sugar from what's made by the beet-radishes and salt is left to the Pavueran merchants.

"Kinue-san, are you doing good?"

"Master. Yes, I'm doing well. I was hearing things relating to magic from Nerune."

"About magic? Did you want to learn some magic skill?"

"There isn't a magic that is used for cleaning or cooking though... other than [Cleanup], that is."

It went against her pride to use [Cleanup] for cleaning, but it seems she prefers it over using wind magic to blow garbage away.

"You learned Japanese cooking, so I'll grant you a low class scroll as a reward."

"Oh my, thank you. I'll think about which to choose and consult with Nerune about it, then. Ufufu."

Kinue-san smiled. She gave off the feeling of an adult woman. Contrasting that, the apprentice witch Nerune felt like a girl.

"How about you, Nerune? Did you learn any magic skills?"

"Ehh~... Excuse me, master. Even though you said you would teach me magic when I learned all of the magic skills Meat-senpai... after all there's one that I can't seem to learn~!"

"[Storage]?"

"[Storage]~!"

Well, even though the others are all low class magics, [Storage] is the only middle class magic after all. Rather, she was able to learn all of those magic skills? Amazing.

But still, [Storage] is a magic skill that can be properly learned. Let's teach her magic next time I feel like it... Nope, it's too troublesome after all. I mean, this world has scrolls you can learn magic from. With the condition of needing to

perfectly memorize the incantation's pronunciation, saying something like, 'Keep reciting the incantation until you get it perfect,' is like giving them a far-off feeling.

Magic teachers teach slowly, listening to them and correcting them as necessary. They are patient and polite.

Once someone's learned a skill, their magical power consumption will just be increased even if they make a small mistake, so it's not wrong to have them continuously recite the incantation to start with.

"Please give me a scroll too~!"

"Alright, so then Nerune. I'll give you some other homework. I'll teach you magic if you can clear it."

"What is it~?"

"Devise a method for golems to use magic... We'll experiment together when you think you've got it."

"Aaalright, I will you know~? Absolutely you know-? Fufufu, I absolutely will~!"

Nerune laughed.

When our golems get to the point of being able to use magic, we'll also have magic sword blade golems so our dungeon's freedom will stretch a ton too. Fufufu, please, give it your best and show me your idea.

*

Ichika and Meat had learned the offensive swordplay skill [Slash]. It was the the result of their repeated training with the golem assist.

As for what Ichika learned, it was just [Slash]. However, it seems Meat had learned [Slash], [Double Slash], [Axel Turn], and [Assassin's Edge]. Moreover, she was teaching Nerune magic...

It's probably because of the beastkin physical strength and the children's distinctive high learning ability.

When I went to see how the two were doing, they were training with wooden swords and exchanging blows in the inn's garden.

Bang, bang. The sound of wood striking against wood resounded as they caught each other's [Slash] midway.

Additionally, there were pseudo-skills mixed in as well. She was forcibly moving her body with the golem's assistance.

I asked Meat about the trick to it.

“Accept the forms. With a *bang*, but not just the golem, umm, y-you also going *boom* is important. Ah, [Double Slash] is fast-ness, it’s important, and [Assassin’s Edge] severs throats. Then, it’s *pow*.”

Even though she was explaining with gestures mixed in, unfortunately, I don’t get it at all.

But I’m sure that Ichika had originally been using swords. Is her only learning [Slash] because she doesn’t have talent or aptitude...? Well, it’s fine. I just wanted to see whether or not they could learn it by seeing it and save me some DP.

I didn’t want to practice over and over, so I had learned it using a skill scroll. [Skill Scroll of Slash] was a low class swordplay, 500 DP.

“Heeey, Goshujin-sama? It took two months to learn that...”

“Got it, I’ll reward you with three days of all-you-can-eat curry rolls.”

“... For a week!”

I’ll allow it.

Still, since the side of rolls is 5 DP for six of them, if she eats six hundred it’d get to the point of her recovering her investment.

... Eighty-five a day huh? That’s at the level of getting a sour stomach huh. Good luck.

Though it feels like meals are given a bit too much importance in this world.

“Does Meat want a reward too? You learned four of them, so you can ask for four times Ichika’s absurdity.”

“... Please pat me.”

“Nn? Sure.”

I pat Meat’s head. Feeling her mellow black hair felt great. Meat was wagging her tail left and right.

“So, what reward do you want? Just patting would be wasteful.”

“... Nn, this is good.”

Didn’t she just say something adorable? Let’s pet her head with both hands. Her hair became a bit disheveled, but since her tail looked happy while I ruffled it

up with my hands, it's probably good.

She's been behaving really doglike after I gave her the family name of Blackdog
huh~. The name's effective.

"I-if Goshujin-sama wants, pet... everywhere, too...?"

... Was the name a bit too effective?

Rokuko's State and the Speaker Golem

Ah, come to think of it, I didn't tell Rokuko about me becoming the village chief huh.

I headed to Rokuko's room, entering inside as I knocked.

"Ufufufufu."

Rokuko was fiddling with and gazing at the red ring on her left hand's ring finger with a big grin on her face. It's a spectacle I've gotten mostly used to seeing recently... I heard an auditory illusion of Haku-san's footsteps, so I almost instinctively turned around and prostrated. Today's mental rehearsal went perfectly today as well... please at least spare my life.

I called out for her since she hadn't noticed me after a few seconds.

"Ooi, Rokuko?"

"Huh!? W-wai—, you should knock on the door before you come in you know! You should wait for a response first you know! This is a maiden's room you know!?"

Rokuko hid her left hand behind her in a panic. You didn't answer me even though I knocked... come to think of it.

"Ah, my bad my bad. I wanted to talk about something."

"Eh, about what...? Wait, let me prepare my heart."

"Alright, but it's just normal business stuff? I don't know what you're thinking about. Definitely not. Well, I'm the village chief now."

I decided to quickly report my business to Rokuko who'd started blushing and rush back to my room.

How'd this happen?

I don't particularly recall raising a flag with Rokuko.

At best, I just drove those bandits from the dungeon, expanded the dungeon, and built the inn.

Was it something to do with buying those melon rolls?

... Maybe dungeon cores just have a tendency to fall for their dungeon masters

by themselves or something...

“Wait, Kehma. Village chief?”

Ah. She stopped me.

“Yeah, there’ve been more people around here recently right? That’s why everyone decided for the village to be a proper one, I’d become the village chief.”

“Nn, in other words, that means Kehma is the most awesome of the humans, then? Well, obviously, my dungeon’s here.”

“... As for me, I just want to push all of the troublesome things onto other people if possible though... thinking about it properly, the village chief is the one in the position of pushing troublesome things onto others.”

The ones to push troublesome things onto heroes were village chiefs. Although they were also at the position where troublesome things would come flying towards them, since I can’t leave from here as the dungeon master, the eternal formula is that the village’s problems are my problems. Let’s give up quietly about it.

“Nn? But since you’re the village chief now, what about the inn?”

“Nothing will really change from how it is now... is what I want to say, however, where I live is a problem... The village chief renting a room from the inn because he doesn’t have a house is weird in a lot of ways.”

“Aah, then I’ll also move when Kehma builds a house.”

“... Eh? Rokoko, this inn is a house though?”

“Eh?”

Rather, even if I built a basic house, since the village is entirely within the dungeon’s area, even if it’s called a house it’s like a room. The dungeon’s functions are really practical here.

“Oh, that’s right huh.”

“Yeah, maybe I’ll add on a lodge to the inn since moving would be troublesome...? Having to walk to the inn every day sounds troublesome too.”

“That sounds great. Like a dormitory?”

“Yeah, like that.”

Externally, we’re going with the pretense that I got permission to build an

annex onto the inn from its owner. It'll become both the village chief's residence and a lodge. How about we promptly go and ask for Narikin's help? There probably won't be any complaints from that party of leaders, but let's just push it through with the village chief's authority if there're any complaints. Even if I'm just a figurehead, I am the village head after all.

"Ah, make my room in in the village chief's residence area too! It'll be a piece of cake for Kehma right?"

"... Well alright, you sure?"

The village chief's residence huh, should I make it a little big? There's still a lot of grounds left to use.

Well then, I thought of something concerning magic practice. I wondered about whether or not golems could be used for that as well.

I presume it'll be used as a record player.

I mean, even though it'd be great if I could just buy something like a voice recorder with DP, for some reason it looks like I can't buy any kind of gadget that a computer would contain with DP. Maybe it's the transistors? Transistors are no good then I guess.

... Still though, there's a record player that isn't a computer in the catalog. But it's an incredible 1,000,000 DP. That's why I decided to make one myself.

The structure of a record player isn't something that complicated. Engraving sounds as grooves from the oscillations in them, the speaker would just vibrate according to the grooves to reproduce the sounds.

Then how would I do that with golems?

It's easy, I'd make the speaker itself into a golem, the golem would just need to memorize the vibrations.

Then how would I make the speaker?

That was even easier. Using paper and hide as a film, it could mimic sounds by vibrating at the precise frequencies. Even a paper cup telephone could be a splendid speaker. In other words, I could simply use 5 DP for twelve paper cups and turn them into golems to be some speakers, then they would be able to become record players.

“Alright, how about we experiment a bit?”

I used [Create Golem] on a paper cup. After it easily turned into a golem, I held the cup like it was a telephone.

“Record the following vibrations... Nn, ahem. Testing, testing. What fine weather we’re having today... Stop recording. Now, reproduce the recorded vibrations.”

[Nn, ahem. Testing, testing. What fine weather we’re having today.]

A quiet version of my voice came from the paper cup. Success! It recorded it all.

When I made it reproduce the vibrations louder, it turned into almost the same volume as my original voice. Also a success.

... Then, next up is looking into exactly to what extent it can memorize.

“Right now is the first vibration set. Next is the second—”

For the results, the paper cup-type speaker golem was able to record twenty seconds in total. When I tried to record any more than that, it would forget the first one... This was much, much more difficult order than the usual ones.

Well, if it’s twenty seconds, it should be able to record magic incantations huh.

Since saying record and the like each time was also troublesome, I also drew on record and replay buttons. It would record when the record button was touched or replay the recorded sound when the replay button was touched. Doing that limited the recording’s duration to eighteen seconds.

... There really is a memory limit for orders huh... Up till now I’ve just been using simple orders like [Dig here] so I didn’t know. This was also a good result to the experiment.

Well, next let’s try recording a magic’s incantation. First up is water.

“Oh water, become a small globe. [Water].”

Since a sphere of water appeared in the air above the golem, I stopped the recording... and caught it in the paper cup golem I was holding in my hand so it wouldn’t fall on the floor.

I swallowed it.

[Oh water, become a small globe. [Water].]

... Ah, guess it was able to play it back despite being wet.

This paper cup golem can be used both as a speaker and as a cup. What a useful fellow.

“At any rate, looks like it still can’t use magic huh...”

Let’s hand this golem with the [Water] incantation memorized to Ichika for now. Nerune should already know it.

If she reviews it herself, she should be able to recreate the magic’s incantation while it’s playing... Ah, I just thought of something. Let’s divide the receiver and speaker to make it like a telephone. It should be easier to use like that.

... What was that magic Nerune couldn’t remember, again?

Intruder

I became the village chief but nothing really changed. Napping is supreme. Futon is cozy. The best time to snuggle into Futon-sama's love is when it's just a little cold outside. I want to make and propagate The Futon Religion.

I wonder if this world has religion? If not I'm fine becoming The Futon Religion's apostle. Female bed mates using believers... no, let's stop there. Something like that sounds good in passing, but in practicality it'd be no match for the hot and heavy Down Futon-sama. Dreams should be left as dreams to preserve their beauty.

If I wanted to do that I could use the monster girls.

It's not because it'd be troublesome to go through the trouble of becoming the founder of a religion.

... Ah, come to think of it, this world had the usual god huh. Rather, I actually met him. Rather, there was that thing about me being god's vanguard.

If I was asked if I believed in god, it's not like I could answer with, 'I met him!' Hahah.

I don't really know what name he has though... If I got asked about my religion, I'd answer with The Futon Religion.

Well, after I warmed up enough and slept a second time, I added on the village chief's estate overnight.

It's interesting that it got so easy.

Seriously, [Create Golem]'s a cheat heh. Ah, couldn't help myself in saying that. Even though it can normally only make clay golems, you just need to keep operating your magical power... Golems are so convenient... why haven't they gotten popular?

I don't think they'd even need to be replenished near the imperial capital since their magical power would be filled since they'd be in the dungeon's area.

Still, the interior design will be using Rokuko's demands. There's also her room. Moreover, rooms for Meat and Ichika to use, and a parlor. Just having the rooms is important. It's easy to add more rooms now because there's so much vacant

area nearby, but that space might be used up in the future. It'll be my victory for claiming it before that.

... Well, I could make use of saying, 'This space will be secured for the inn's use,' as the village chief, but even then, there's a limit...

Maybe I should consider building upwards? Like in the shape of a mountain.

At any rate, Kusan came along with a dumbfounded face while I was nodding in satisfaction at seeing how the village chief's estate turned out.

"K-Kehma-san!? Didn't you promise to let me build the village chief's estate!?"

"Nah, definitely didn't. Hurry up and get back to building warehouses."

"Kuh—, right, you didn't huh, I just really wanted to though... I've already built one of the warehouses. But... this definitely wasn't here yesterday... moreover, for it to feel like it's been here since the start... the architectural power feels amazing. As a carpenter's son, I won't lose!"

Saying that, Kusan went back.

Rather, he's already built one? What a crazy work speed. Is he unexpectedly awesome?

... Well, with the village chief's estate completed and with leaving the troublesome Domestic Stuff for the village to others, let's mess around with the dungeon a bit.

I handed them enough money, so they should be able to take care of whatever. Man~, being village chief is so hectic~

I immediately slept in the village chief's estate starting, so I'd brought my futon and hug pillow (Meat) to sleep with.

I woke up. Rather, Rokuko woke me up.

"Kehma! It's an emergency!"

Rokuko stamped on me with her foot. Ah, this isn't her using a rude method of waking me up and is something I requested. You should at least wake someone up with your feet if you're going to get in the way of their blissful sleep, think about it as a foot fetishist.

"Ugu, w-what is it!?"

“There’s an intruder in the dungeon, and it’s bad!”

There’s no reason for Rokuko to wake me up just for an intruder. Up until now there’ve been a lot of adventurers staying in there a while.

So that meant this person’s gotten a really far way in. Opening the menu, I checked out the dungeon.

“This guy!”

There was a red light representing an intruder on the map. It had ‘Dangerous!’ added on as its name. Rokuko probably added it.

It was advancing through the dungeon incredibly fast and encountered a group of four adventurers that had dove into the dungeon... and they’re wiped out. Wait, didn’t I see Bancho and Shatty there? Weren’t they in a C-Rank party? You guys only lasted a second.

“Nn... Goshujin-sama, what’s... wrong...?”

Did I wake her up? Meat looked at me while rubbing the sleep from her eyes.

“There’s an intruder you know! This isn’t the time to sleep!”

“! To the defense!”

“Hold up, it just wiped out a C-Rank party. First we need to identify our enemy. Rokuko, please contact and wake everyone up.”

Stopping Meat that tried to dash out, I moved to the core room. I looked at the enemy... deep black, a wolf? There was some kind of mist.

Its whole body was solid black, the sole exception being its red eyes. There wasn’t any white in its eyes either, all I could see were jewel-like red eyes.

“What is that monster?”

“No idea! ... Some kind of wolf type? Does Meat know? It’s a dog and it’s black, there are common points!”

“... I don’t know. But, it feels different somehow.”

Meanwhile, our dungeon was being captured. Despite the traps meant for adventurers and the wandering golems, it left the labyrinth area.

However, the riddle area was after that. The wolf shouldn’t be able to pass that!

After the black wolf moved about in the room and smelled for a moment—

[Awrooo!]

With a bang, it crunched the gimmick riddle golem.

... Oiii!? I definitely made that with a stone golem though!?

No way, for the riddle area's second capture to be from a feat of strength...

"Rokuko, move the dungeon core to the inn!"

"Okay~. Should I move it to the village chief's estate?"

Using the castling function on the dungeon core, we replaced it with a dummy core. With this we should be safe just in case.

Around the time it broke through the riddle area, there was a reaction from Ichika and them. I quickly summoned them into the core room.

"Sorry, we're late! Some kinda super emergency woke Goshujin-sama up!?"

"Yeah, right now there's an intruder that passed the riddle area and has just entered the spiral staircase. We'll be defending with the golems in the warehouse area that's after it. If we can't repel it with that, we'll guide it to [Flame Cavern]."

"Understood!"

At worst, Ontentoo will somehow deal with it. They seemed to have said something like that...

There's probably no way that not even Ontentoo and Redra could handle it.

The black wolf quickly jumped down the center of the spiral staircase, landing on the ground lightly. It landed with such little sound that it looked like it didn't weigh anything at all.

Fighting the Black Wolf

The black wolf leisurely walked into the warehouse area. A wandering iron golem attacked the wolf, but it easily avoided the iron golem's monotonous attacks, sending it flying with its forelegs.

Bang! The iron golem crashed into the dungeon wall and instantly stopped moving, turning back into an ordinary mound of iron. Moreover, there was a definitely mark from the wolf's attack left on the iron golem.

... You know that iron is the highest defense of what we have, right?
Shuddering, I gulped.

What Meat was manipulating was a haniwa golem made of stone. It'd probably be over the instant it got hit no matter how much armor was on it.

“... Alright! Guiding now!”

By guiding, she was saying she'd be following the plan of us luring it to [Flame Cavern] since our chances of winning otherwise were small.

“I'll leave the path to you! I'll take the right. Rei will attack it with a bow from the left. Kinue, follow Meat for attacking it and don't let up on it by operating the next golems one by one! But Meat, there's no replacement for the haniwa so do your best alright!? Nerune's spiked shell golem will drive it on from behind!”
“Understood! Golem, GO—!”

“Rokuko-sama! What should I do!?”

“Ichika, block up the side paths with wall golems, guide the enemy forward!”

According to Rokuko's instructions, Meat was using the haniwa golem, with Rei using the four-legged archer golems, Kinue-san the four-armed golems, Nerune the spiked shell golems, and Ichika the wall golems.

They were precise directions... so precise that I don't need to do anything. Do you guys even need me here?

“Third archer destroyed! But I succeeded in luring it! Coming in the fourth!”
“Is the haniwa golem still alright?”

“Problems, none. As is, will lead to magma area.”

The black wolf was attacking the haniwa golem when I checked it out with the monitor, but the golem blocked the wolf’s forelegs’ punches with the shield it held in its hands by warding off the blows. It kept the shield, which was larger than the wolf’s mouth, held out to the front to prevent from being bit. Although it was also attacking with a sword to threaten the wolf, the wolf evaded it. Four-armed golems that each tried obstructing it were easily flicked away and sent flying... quickly turning back into piles of stone. However, like an all-you-can-eat buffet, more and more four-armed golems came to attack it one by one. Along with that, a spiked shell golem was also urging it forward from the rear, but it didn’t display much effect. Its tail easily broke through the golem’s stone spikes, taking away its strength and turning it into an ordinary steamed bun stone golem. As there were no other means left to it, the golem resolved itself and rammed towards the wolf’s tail.

I can’t really read wolf expressions that well, but it looks pretty irritated. Then, probably because it didn’t like that it hadn’t defeated all of its enemies, or maybe because the four-legged archer golems’ attacked were really irritating, it focused on attacking and was successfully lead forward.

It did nothing but earnestly be induced towards the magma area that Rokuko made.

“Alright, one more and it’ll be at the magma area! ... Meat, are you alright?”
“I’m alright... I can, still go! ...!”

The haniwa golem’s shield finally gave in. Crunch, crunch. The black wolf chewed on and swallowed the shield.

The shield was originally made of stone after all. It did good enough being able to last this far.

Immediately following that, its foreleg crashed down. Receiving the hit, the horse part was immediately brought down. The body portion barely separated from it in time, but there wasn’t a chance for it anymore.

It was somehow managing to ward off its attacks with its magic sword, but damage continued to build up on it... The sword that should have been a blade golem had already returned to being a standard sword. Though even so, it was still a suitable replacement for the shield since it was made of iron.

... Thinking about it now, I should have given it a shield made of iron too.

“—The sword can’t be used anymore, one more step...”

“Just roll into the magma area! Don’t worry about breaking the haniwa!”

“Alright!”

Following Rokuko’s directions, the haniwa golem rolled down the staircase into the magma area.

She said that it was alright to break the golem, but I’m the one that’s going to have to rebuild it... Well, I don’t particularly mind if it breaks though.

Crashing and banging into the steps on the way down, the haniwa golem shed its stone armor as it crumbled.

The black wolf would soon chase it into the magma area—I thought. Its feet suddenly stopped, turning around.

“Huh!? Wait! W-why!?”

Rokuko panicked. It’s understandable, this was the result despite that golem being sacrificed. Even I’m surprised. What’s it doing?

... After that, the black wolf noticed the wall golems’ existence. After sniffing around, it suddenly destroyed a wall golem by lunging at it.

“Not good, it’s heading to the boss room. It doesn’t look like we can stop it!”

“... There’s no choice but for us to receive it in the boss room huh. It’s the iron haniwa’s turn. Meat, are you good to go?”

“I’m not, confident.”

She was able to put up a good fight against it in the stone haniwa golem, so she should be able to put up an even better one in the upgraded version, the iron haniwa golem. It even has an iron shield.

“It should left, to Rokuko-sama...”

“No, you were able to hold up against that wolf until just a moment ago. You can do it. I’m counting on you, Meat Blackdog!”

“... Yes! Goshujin-sama!”

I fired Meat up by patting her head.

“Go get ‘em!”

“Iron haniwa, I’m going!”

The black wolf vigorously slammed against the boss room's doors and entered. It felt like a black aura seeped from its black body. Our dungeon's strongest fighting strength confronted it, the iron haniwa golem. Iron haniwa for short. Mounted on its iron horse, the iron haniwa's body was clad in iron armor.

[Gaaaaaon!]

The black wolf howled. Likely to threaten the small fry that stood before it. However, the iron haniwa didn't falter. Meat was manipulating this as well.

"Pseudo-Slash!"

Holding the specially-made, oversized magic sword blade golem to attack while mounted, it attacked with an imitation of the swordplay skill [Slash]. The wolf easily dodged the opening attack, slamming against the iron haniwa that had lost its posture on horseback. However, the iron haniwa golem avoided the charge by deliberately rolling off the horse's back.

"Rokuko-sama, the horse is yours!"

"Got it!"

Passing the horse's operation to Rokuko, she concentrated on manipulating the haniwa's main body.

It was fundamentally the same as before. Defending with its shield, attacking with its sword.

And this time, Rokuko also operated the horse's charges.

Even though it was called a horse, it was also a golem made entirely out of iron. Just considering how much mass it had, there was a destructive power to it. Running about the room, it bolted towards the wolf after gaining momentum. To compare it to something, it was like a giant motorcycle freely crashing about the room.

[Gurururu—... gaaah!]

However, the wolf managed to evade the horse's charges while also dodging the slashes and sweeps from the iron haniwa's pseudo-swordplay skills. So it's no use huh... is what I thought, but it looked like it was concentrating on dodging the attacks more than I thought it was.

... Looks like it needs one more push.

“Send out the boss’ followers. All hands on deck! For equipment, bow and arrows, wooden! Don’t bother matching your volleys, take care to not hit allies, do nothing but shoot!”

Although the followers were normal iron golems, they were armed. Their armaments could be replaced depending on the strategy, their feature was that they could cope with a lot of situations.

We’re going with wooden arrows this time. I don’t intend for them to damage the wolf, their only purpose is to divert its attention. Even if they accidentally hit allies, it won’t do much damage. Wood won’t do much to the iron golems.

The bows fired towards the wolf, their bowstrings ringing from the force... but were all swatted down by its tail.

That’s alright. The wolf’s attacks are lessening more and more, constantly being attacked by Meat manipulating the iron haniwa.

Is the wolf tiring? It looks like it’s going berserk in this game of concentration.

As soon as I thought that, the wolf hurled itself towards the horse golem’s flank mid-attack. Slamming into the iron horse that had come to attack it at full strength, the wolf disappeared.

“... That’s not it! It clung on!?”

The wolf—no, it didn’t look like a wolf anymore.

The mass of black mist stuck to the horse’s abdomen.

“What’s going on!? It’s not a wolf-type monster!? Wai—, the horse golem... it’s being eaten!?”

The black mist wrapped around the horse golem... and swallowed its body into itself, ignoring their difference in mass.

Then, it returned to looking like a wolf. This time, it dealt with the follower golems in an instant.

“... Kuh!?”

The Meat-piloted iron haniwa confronted it once again, but the wolf... well, when the golem thrust out its shield to block an incoming bite, the wolf’s head was dissipated into a mist, absorbing both the shield and its left arm. Next, the

sword.

Then—

“... I’m so, sorry...”

Meat uttered a sorrowful voice.

The iron haniwa golem was eaten by the black wolf, unable to do anything.

Consultation With Our Neighbor

The black wolf left the boss room, entering our dungeon's deepest floor, the core room.

As expected, Meat was tired and was sleeping on my knees. Like a puppy.

"... There's no helping it huh."

"Ugugu..."

After it took out everything we had, all we could do was just watch what happened.

Even so, right now, the thing in the core room is a dummy core. Just like the real one, it's a basketball sized jewel that sheds a gentle white light. When touched, it feels around as warm as a water bottle.

Since it's a dummy core, there's no problem even if it gets destroyed.

... The black wolf just glanced at the dummy core on the pedestal at the room's center.

... And proceeded to ignore it, laying down with a plop.

"... Nn?"

"Maybe... it isn't going to do anything?"

Even though we just watched how things continued for a while, the black wolf just seemed to be sleeping deeply.

... Shouldn't we do something now? It's not like we have any fighting potential though.

We haven't seen the limit to our enemy's strength, so it's better to not attack.

"For the time being, it looks like we have no choice but to leave it alone for now."

"Right..."

Rokoko looked like she had complicated feelings about it, but I don't remember seeing her like that when I was summoned.

Come to think of it, I haven't checked our enemy's strength... rather, I haven't

checked how much DP we're getting from it.

Although it doesn't mean I can read it as a numerical value for an enemy's strength, it's a good basis to go off of. I completely forgot to check since I didn't know if it works for things that aren't human... Let's see...

... 950 DP... per day... huh?

Oi, isn't this guy on the same level as a hero? That's why we couldn't win.

... No, it's not that we couldn't win because it was strong. It's my bad for relying on golems too much.

If an enemy with physical resistance appears, we won't be able to do anything with golems alone. Even though I already knew that, I didn't put up any countermeasures for it at all.

To begin with, there's a limit to just using golems. Although it's troublesome to use other monsters, it's necessary to increase the means we have to fight with. There wouldn't be any point in summoning small fries here. But something with a piercing characteristic, or perhaps just all-purpose strength...

"... Most importantly, we need to figure out some way to deal with this monster of an opponent huh."

"Right."

It's not like I couldn't come up with hints.

This guy didn't go into the magma area. In that case, he's probably weak to heat.

... Maybe I should get some help from [Flame Cavern]? Ontentoo might know what this black wolf really is.

When I contacted Ontentoo saying that it was an emergency and waited for him at the conference room's table, he rushed over. I'm thankful that salamanders are so fast.

"C'mon, what's going on Kehma? It's the middle of the night."

"I also want to sleep, but sorry. The only one I could ask was you..."

"Haha! No helping it then eh, what happened?"

In a good mood, Ontentoo laughed with his lizard face sitting opposite of me... He has the form of a reptile, but he really is sitting... Ah, that doesn't matter

right now.

“A strange intruder arrived a short while ago... it broke through our boss room.”

“Huh!? You—, tha—, whaaa—!? Are you alright!? It’s in your core room!?”

“It stayed there and did nothing, but it’s really bad. Our best couldn’t stand up to it...”

“That really sounds bad. What kinda guy appeared?”

While I showed him the actual black wolf that was snoring in the core room, I told him about its features we saw when fighting it.

“... So, we tried guiding it to [Flame Cavern], but it wouldn’t go into the magma area.”

“I see... wait, you wanted to push such a risky guy over onto us?”

“I figured that if it’s Ontentoo, you’d be able to take care of it somehow.”

“Hah, obviously! The 100 Series Lot isn’t just for show.”

His lizard face warped with what was probably delight at being relied on.

Oi, the heck’s a lot? Don’t say something so worrying at a time like this! Wait, dungeon cores are made with lot production?

“Umm, so, do you know what the black wolf really is?”

“Nnn? Right, that guy’s a... judging from his appearance, it’s wolf-type, dark-type, or ghost-type...”

“Fumu, something like a vampire’s transformation?”

“Transformation eh. That too... ah, perhaps... no, why would that sorta thing be there...”

Ontentoo looked like he was stuck thinking about something, mumbling about something for a little while.

Then, he told me his conclusion.

“There’s about a seventy percent chance of it being a variation slime-type. A dark and ghost-type hybrid one.”

“... A slime? So it’s wolf shape’s from mimicry?”

“Yeah. Humans can move around pretty fast by using slimes, so they train ‘em to use other animals’ forms. But still, this one’s way too strong. They’d usually just use the limbs of other animals, then there’s that high offensive strength... that’s

why, it could be another monster completely, so seventy percent.”

Slimes get trained huh. There are tamers?

“It’s weak points are...”

“Oi Kehma? Ya got the consultation fee?”

“... I have a strong alcohol called vodka. How about one of those for the fee?”

I put a bottle of vodka onto the table after buying it with DP. One bottle is 100 DP. It might not be enough since it’s sized for a human though.

However, using alcohol as gifts is popular in this world, so Ontentoo accepted it with pleasure.

“Ooh! Alcohol, a good one! Does Kehma drink?”

“No, I don’t drink much.”

“That so, then I’ll drink it with Redra. It’s a bit small though.”

“... ... You want two more?”

“Ooh! You’ve got me in a vice!”

Ontentoo opened the vodka’s lid and gave it a whiff, laughing joyfully.

“Watch your step. Well, it should be fine with just that much.”

“Don’t be like that. Kehma and I live in attached caves, we’re like brothers right? Ah, I’m the older brother though yeah?”

“Yeah, yeah. I’m happy to have such a reliable aniki. So, your guess at what its weak points are?”

“A-A-Anikiii? You’re gonna make me embarrassed ya’know? ... Say it again.”

That’s all good, so please tell me its weak point, aniki.

“Nn, its weak points huh. Strong light in the case of dark-types, pure things in the case of ghost-types. If it’s a vampire... there’re various things. Well, magic in general for a slime... nah, it’d be strong against darkness if it’s a dark-type hybrid. And physical attacks should have some kind of effect? Light attributed things would be good to attack with, but there aren’t really much of those that are offensive. It’d be easy to win with Redra’s breath ya’know? It’d depend on the reward though...”

“... Incidentally, how much would that be?”

“I’d like a thousand more of this alcohol.”

100,000 DP huh... a bit difficult.

“Fortunately, right now it’s calmed down, so I’ll try and deal with it as much as possible by myself. I’ll be relying on you if something happens though.”

“Kukakaka, it’s fine to rely on your aniki at any time ya’know? We’d melt your core room with the breath though.”

... I’d be troubled if you went that far.

At any rate, it’s good to know I can rely on him if push comes to shove. Saying as much to Ontentoo, I took the chance to give him another five bottles of vodka.

“Hey Kehma? I’m happy about it, but are you sure? This’s more than the consultation fee yeah?”

“Eh? I interrupted your sleep with the consultation, so it’s natural to repay that too.”

“... Well, it’s alright then. If you need anything else, feel free to give me a call.”

“Yeah, I’ll take you up on that.”

Now then, let’s deal with that black wolf somehow.

I can’t sleep at ease if I don’t... Haah, I don’t want to work.

Good Idea

When I woke up from sleeping, Rokuko looked into my face.

“... Why did you sleep?”

“Eh? No, uhh—”

“Sehza.”

“Eh? S-seiza?”

“Un, sehza. Do it. Okay?”

And so I was made to sit in a seiza for some reason. Why?

Even sleeping is no good? I’m a human, I need to sleep.

“Well, why did you sleep? Even though I’m in a pinch.”

“... Is that a biological question? Humans will die if they don’t sleep.”

“Even if you don’t sleep for one night you’ll be alright. You slept just before this.”

No, well, yeah, but... Please think about it. I woke up. Waking up means I did my best against the terrible drowsiness. I even woke Ontentoo up and consulted with him, so I think I did well. Seriously.

I did my best since I was no use in the battle you know?

“Can’t you wake up for my sake too?”

“That’s not it Rokuko. I can’t demonstrate my original specs if I don’t sleep, so in other words, I sleep to power up.”

“... Really?”

“Really really. I think about things while I’m asleep, I even thought about how to deal with our enemy while sleeping.”

“Hmm. So, how will we deal with it?”

Rokuko stared at me dubiously. She crouched down as though to pry more out of me, who was still sitting in a seiza, from above.

What to do huh... ah, come to think of it, Ontentoo said that slimes are kept and trained huh. So that means tamers... couldn’t we go with taming it? Alright, let’s use that as an excuse.

“I heard about it from Ontentoo, but it seems there are these people called

tamers... If we tame that black wolf, wouldn't it turn into an amazing strength for the dungeon? That's what I was thinking."

"I see, it'd really be a strong companion. Well, how?"

"Yeah. First, there's a strong possibility of that wolf being a slime using mimicry to take the shape of a wolf. Also that it was raised before."

"Un, and then?"

It feels like my excuse caught her attention. Let's keep it up.

"First we have to know our opponent. We'll talk to it."

"... Who, and how?"

It'd be great if I could talk to someone directly using the dungeon's functions, but unfortunately even if the functions allow for us to hear voices inside the dungeon, it doesn't have the ability to send my voice to wherever I want. If there were, it'd be convenient for convening for emergencies like this. Setting aside the monster girls, Meat and Ichika aren't even able to communicate with the dungeon's menu function.

But I just now remembered that I made a golem that could reproduce voices perfectly the other day.

"... I'll communicate to it with a golem. If it looks safe, I'll get closer to some extent and try using [Air Voice], yeah? If it was raised by humans, I think it should have enough intelligence to understand human speech."

While I was at it, I also remembered that I 'd learned the wind magic [Air Voice]. It's been a long time. Since before I went to buy Ichika.

In the end, all I've really been using is [Create Golem] huh, it's really too convenient. I'm definitely a golem expert... That backfired on me a bit this time though.

"Hmm, you thought about it properly this time."

"Obviously. Who do you think I am? I'm your partner, the dungeon master."

"That's right, you're my partner after all. Sorry for doubting you okay?"

Saying that, Rokuko glanced at the red ring that shined on her ring finger, smiling.

Thinking about if the conversation goes badly... For now, the boss room will turn into a sea of magma and the core room will sink into a sea of lava.

Well, that's just peachy.

"... I couldn't come up with a good idea while speaking after all..."

"Nn? Did you say something?"

"Nah, it's nothing. Ah, can I stop destroying my legs now? I want to go back to sleep."

"... Kehma? Right now, this dungeon has been invaded all the way past the boss room, I'm in a pinch you know? I'm afraid and can't sleep at night though?"

And she had me sit in seiza for another thirty minutes.

"This much doesn't seem like a punishment."

Moreover, she said that and sat on my thighs. It felt like I'd turned into some kind of floor cushion.

That said, she didn't do anything else and just stayed sitting down. As expected, I tried to think of a way to start a conversation.

Since there was thirty minutes of silence, I gave up and spoke.

"Hey, Rokuko?"

"I-I'll forgive you with this much!"

She dashed out of the room.

What did Rokuko want to do there?

... My legs are super numb.

Ah, it turned into a punishment huh. Wait, didn't she just go with what she said at the start?

I went back to sleep after being released from Rokuko's floor cushion punishment... since I can't actually do that, I decided to replenish our golems for now.

Apart from the three girls' favorite variety golems that could easily be made with the single incantation, the haniwa golem has a lot of parts that take time to make.

For now I repaired the stone haniwa golem that had started breaking, upgrading its sword and shield to be made of iron.

Additionally, I remade the iron golem from scratch since it was eaten and

completely destroyed.

I didn't really add any functions to them in particular.

And I thought about it just now, on the topic of it being a haniwa golem, after being made from clay, isn't it more clay golem-ish than haniwa-ish?

Because of that, I made a simple clay haniwa golem with no armor to relax. I made it and that's all good, but there's no use for it...

... And so I decided to use it as a messenger golem.

In short, it was a golem that was in charge of a thread telephone golem.

First, the golem would run to the other party, and when I talked into the thread telephone golem on my end, it would reproduce my voice on the other end. Since I can hear voices by using the menu's monitoring function, it only needs to deliver my voice to them.

Then again, it has nothing to do with what's happening right now since the other person is a wolf... or a slime.

No, it might be able to talk huh, that salamander's able to at least.

Still, this string telephone golem was different from a usual string telephone. It was something excellent that could carry my voice along whether or not it was pulled around corners or shut in doors.

The point is that the string telephone is a single golem's body.

[Receive vibrations in the receiving paper cup and play them back with the playback paper cup.]

With that order, it's able to deliver my voice. It's the same kind of thing as if I told it to move its left hand just like how I move its right hand.

It's attained a ridiculous level of convenience, I want a golem telephone line throughout the dungeon. How about I stop being a dungeon master and start calling myself a golem master?

Ah, oops. Right now we need to get through this unscathed.

I looked to see what the black wolf was doing with the menu. It's still sleeping huh... Maybe we'll get along?

... Ah, doesn't the taming success chance go up if you raise a flag like that? It's definitely my imagination.

Contact

We decided to begin our approach to the black wolf. Although it looks like it woke up, it's not doing much of anything other than swinging its black tail back and forth. Somehow, from the looks of it it seems as though it's protecting the dungeon core. Rather, it'd be great if it just kept doing that for real.

And so I had the messenger golem run there. It would've been possible for me to bring it directly out of the dummy core, but I didn't want to accidentally agitate the black wolf. I took up position further away outside of the boss room with the string telephone golem in my hand. ... I plan on running away if the wolf attacks it through Rokuko retrieving me. That might not actually happen, but there's no reason to not be careful here.

[Our preparations are done! You can start anytime.]

It was Rokuko's voice. If I'm inside the dungeon, we can communicate through the menu even without using the string telephone golem.

"Well then, guess it's time to give it a go."

While watching to see how things were going in the core room through the monitor, I moved the clay haniwa golem inside. When the golem timidly peeped into the core room, the black wolf stood up abruptly.

... I gave up the thought of having the clay haniwa golem move further into the room and just decided to start talking.

"... Who are you."

The wolf's ears twitched... It might be able to answer if it can talk, but can it really?

[Gurururu... strange golem. You, that one, what are you?]

Ooh! It talked! This wolf can talk like a person! Let's introduce myself.

“I am this place’s master, Keima. Who are you? If you have a name, what do you call yourself?”

[A name, I have one! I, am Rin! This place, it’s your, house? Obediently, surrender it, to me. If you do, I will spare, your life.]

It’s named Rin, huh. This guy uses a ton of commas. However, I still understand what this guy’s saying right now. He wants me to ‘surrender my house’... he wants to make it his base?

Is it that it came because it wants to hibernate or something?

[Hey Kehma, what was that a moment ago?]

“Nn?”

A transmission from Rokuko popped up... What, huh. So she can’t hear it? Rokuko should have been able to hear it too though...

Ah, nope, right. It’s Translation Function-san doing his job. I can’t even understand if it’s using slime speech or wolf speech yet he’s translating it properly, seriously awesome.

“And because of that, we can negotiate properly.”

[... Got it. You said its name was Rin? If the wolf attacks, I’ll retrieve you.]

I briefly told Rokuko about it and returned to negotiating with the wolf.

[What will, you choose. Want to, be eaten? Kehma.]

“Let me think for a moment.”

[I am, hungry, better, hurry. Ku, ku, ku, ku.]

That laughter feels bad somehow, like it’s in monotone. Is it because it’s a wolf?

“... You want food then? What do you... Rin, what do you eat?”

[I eat, anything. Even, golems!]

It opened its pitch-black mouth, aiming at the messenger golem, threatening it with its darkly colored fangs.

... Ah, right, it thinks that I’m the golem huh?

Well, whatever. If it’s a living thing that gets hungry, I might be able to win it over with food.

“You eat golems huh. How much do you eat per day? I’ll feed you.”

[... You'll sell, your comrades?]

Rin spoke in deep voice, loaded with a gloomy feeling.

It feels like my reputation would go down if I actually agreed here.

"You might say that, but you said that you're fine eating anything that moves."

[That, so? You, Kehma? A golem, right? Aren't you, this cave's, master?]

So it really does think I'm a golem. In other words, it thinks that I'm someone that'd sell my followers even if they're the same race or something. Really, I'm suuuuper nice to my comrades ya'know!?

I started to correct it, but stopped for now. I want to avoid saying that I'm a dungeon master. It's a secret that Haku-san told me to absolutely protect until they become a comrade.

If this guy has a human owner and that person shows up to take it back, it'd get leaked.

Even so, it's probably a good thing to say that I'm not a golem. Seeing its reaction from a moment ago, it seems like it doesn't like people that'd sell out their own race, so negotiations would be hindered.

And so because of that, I decided to tell it that I'm not a golem without saying too much.

"Don't misunderstand. I am not a golem."

[Not, a golem...? True, you look, strange. You're like, the strong one, in that last room, and the one, before that. Were those, your, parents?]

Our conversation didn't move at all even though I said that I'm not a golem. Rather, a haniwa golem family huh, that's a new setting.

"No, I made them."

[!? You are, the parent, then!?]

Why's it so troublesome to correct it!? Well, the point that I made them isn't wrong and I can't think of a good way to say it... Yep, let's leave it there!

"For now, if you want to eat golems, just say how much you want me to feed you. How's that?"

[... I don't like, golems, much. They aren't, tasty.]

"T-that so? Then what do you want to eat?"

[You!]

The talks went full throttle out of nowhere!?

Grah, I don't get what it's thinking! Isn't this beyond the point of cultural differences!?

[... You talk, too much. I am, getting hungry. I'll eat, Kehma!]

"H-hold up. It's alright to eat me, but why'd you come here in the first place? I want to know."

[To eat, yoooou! Time, to eat!]

With a snap, the messenger golem was eaten by the wolf.

Simultaneously with that, I was retrieved into the master room. Looks like Rokuko pulled me back since the golem got eaten.

On the monitor, I saw the telephone golem get crunched up by the wolf like it was eating noodles.

"It ate the golem huuuh. So, what now Kehma? Was the conversation beneficial somehow?"

"... Hmm, it's like we connected and like we didn't connect..."

Should I give it another shot? After giving it some time, that is.

Well, What Now?

After I headed back to the inn to take a break from negotiating with the black wolf, a guest arrived. A man with a turban on his head... uhh, who was this guy again...? Ah, the shop manager huh. The guy I entrusted a hundred gold to. I forgot his name though. Wait... did I ever even hear it?

Soon as that guy saw me, he shouted in a panic.

“K-Kehma-han! I-i-it’s bad! T-there’s been a major incideent! S-s-serious for the villaage!”

‘I need to tell you as soon as possible!’ I got his intention, but I don’t get what the incident is at all. Did someone die or something?

“Major incident? What happened? Did you fail in that business venture?”
“T-that’s alright! C-c-calm down and listen ‘kay!? It’s good, it’s good! Good news or bad news, which do ya want!?”

You’re the one that should calm down. That’s the first I heard of there being good news.

“Then let’s go with the good part.”

“The good one, yeah, that’s... The fourth floor was captured!”

The fourth floor... ah, I forgot to fix the riddle area. Crap.

“Aah, cool, and?”

“Matchin’ the Hero-sama’s report, the interior continues into a spiral staircase and, well, that’s when they turned back though... Muu, Kehma-han. Yer reaction’s a bit weak... did ya already capture it as well!?”

“I wonder. So, is that all of the good news?”

“Yah. The riddle room’s doors were smashed up so that people could get by! It didn’t look like they were repairin’ themselves after watching for a bit either. People could get to the fifth floor and get magic swords in swarms.”

Aah, so they’ll flock to it until I repair it huh. Haah, so troublesome...

“But here’s the bad part! ... There’s the chance of a boss class monster is

appearing on the second or third floors! It's bad! In truth, Bancho-han's corpse got found. The C-Rank adventurer, Bancho-han, was almost a B-Rank and got killed by it. The remnants of his corpse was burned, but there were traces that his armor was chewed off..."

Yep, that's Rin... so it's about the black wolf huh. I mean, I forgot about collecting his corpse, huh. Rather, didn't I forget about all of them?

... More precisely, don't both of those things have to do with the black wolf? The adventurers were able to advance into the spiral staircase area thanks to that guy wrecking the riddle area. But there's also the possibility of it roaming the dungeon too, huh. Though it's actually just sleeping in the core room, I don't know if it'll stay there.

"... What do you think we should do, Kehma-han!?"

"Wouldn't it be fine to just have the guild put out an investigation or subjugation commission? ... Use the operating funds I left with you to pay for the reward. I'll leave the rest to you."

"O-oooh! Right! Leave it to me!"

The merchant ran off.

... Yep, it should be plenty leaving it to him. I don't particularly feel like making him a comrade though.

Ah, wouldn't this look like another transition phase, making another lookout commission come up?

Troublesome. Even though I have so much going on right now... Maybe I could refuse it using my authority as the village chief~

Since I couldn't repair the riddle area with all of the eyes on it right now, I decided to just make the parts. It should be a good chance have adventurers try out the warehouse area. There are a lot of iron golems wandering around there. Well, it should also be fine to tease the adventurers with the variety golems. I want to steadily show off our characteristics as a dungeon.

And because of that, while I made compact golems, I had everyone gather to discuss what we're going to do about the wolf again. I say everyone, but Nerune and Kinue-san aren't here since they're working at the inn right now though.

“Now then, let’s discuss for the future.”

“Kehma, shouldn’t you only do one or the other? Make golems or discuss?”

“Don’t be stupid, I’ll have more time to sleep if I do all of the troublesome stuff together.”

“Ah, that’s Kehma for you.”

Rokuko nodded her head, understanding something. I don’t get what she understood, but I’m happy she gets it.

“First off, the dungeon. We’ll increase the number of floors again. After the warehouse area, it’ll diverge into the boss room, the magma area, and the new floor.”

“There’s still the spiral staircase area to go through now, but won’t adventurers make it into the warehouse area soon?”

“Yeah, since it can’t be helped, the new floor’s entrance... will be a new riddle area built quickly with nothing but DP. Well, make it quickly and we’ll hurry to expand the dungeon farther in. I’m making the necessary golems for a riddle area right now, so I’ll leave the installation of it to you, Rokuko.”

“Got it! I’ll start digging out the area after the riddle area with golems too.”

Hopping onto my train of thought, as expected of my partner huh.

“... But what about that black wolf?”

“The black wolf... its name seems to be Rin. I was able to talk with it... but although I could fundamentally understand it, it was hard to understand.”

“It ate you after all, Kehma.”

The messenger golem, huh. Right, need to make a new one of those too. Let’s make a few since more will probably get eaten.

Ah, Ichika raised her hand to ask a question.

“Goshujin-sama. What did that wolf say? We couldn’t get that wolf’s words at all...”

“Ah, I asked what it wanted. The things that wolf wanted are... a dwelling, and food.”

“So it’ll be quiet if it gets food and that room?”

“... Docile huh, yeah.

Right now, Rin’s been sleeping since it ate the golem. Haaah...

“For now, since I was able to communicate, if we keep trying... even though it’ll be troublesome... me might manage somehow or another... even though it’ll be troublesome...”

“Persevering, heeeh. Somehow, that word feels like it suits Kehma the least, and also not?”

“Master, I feel you are working wonderfully.”

... Yep, come to think of it, don’t I do amazing work when I’m not asleep?

“The time that other people play is when Goshujin-sama sleeps.”

“My vote is that he sleeps too much!”

“Even though the time he’s awake is short, isn’t master’s workload more than the normal person’s?”

Oi, the story wandered off topic. It feels like they’re praising me but right now we should be talking about the wolf, the wolf!

“Well, the wolf... Rin, because we can negotiate with it, we’ll keep trying to negotiate with the golem. We can talk with it to some degree.”

“When Kehma did the negotiations, no one else understand that wolf.”

Before, when I’d talked with Rin, after my first, “Who are you,” nothing else was in human speech, it was all in wolf language. Like ‘bow-wow’. Translation Function-san did his best huh.

Since my opening words were understood, Rin might be able to understand human speech. In other words, we should be able to converse with it in human speech as well if I just listen for the wolf speech.

“Umm, Goshujin-sama. Are you sure?”

“Nn? What’s up, Meat? Can you understand wolf speech too?”

“Y-yes. Vaguely, though. I, am a dog beastkin.”

“Ooh! Meat, your doggy ears aren’t just for show! Alright, good good.”

I fiddled around with Meat’s ears. Stroking her head, Meat’s tail wagged back and forth with a pitter-patter.

This was a good miscalculation. She might be able to connect with it better than me for the negotiations since she’s black colored and a dog type.

“Alright, let’s leave the next negotiation to Meat. Show us you winning that wolf, Rin, over to our side, Meat!”

“Yes! Please leave it to me!”

For the time being, let's make a black messenger golem for Meat's use so that it sees it as a different person. I don't know if it can distinguish them apart though. Being black may be something important... Maybe it'll be interesting to mix black-colored paints into it instead of coating it or something?

Contact Once Again

Meat, having chosen to wait until around the time the wolf—Rin—woke up, operated the golem.

So that Meat could see Rin's appearance with the monitor, Rei opened the menu for her.

And so this time I was just on standby in the master room in case something happened. A job that doesn't need to do anything in particular.

... Rokuko's been in charge of retrieving people in the case of something happening for a while now. There's a proper reason why I'm not taking charge. Rokuko can easily collect Meat and Ichika into the master room even though they aren't items because I convinced her that [Slaves are items, so you can]. And although the system might be able to do this to start with... it's a loophole. The function ban might be lifted if the dungeon grows up.

Well, whether or not I could actually treat Meat and Ichika as items... is complicated. It's a secret from Rokuko, but I don't think I can.

Like this, there's a danger of me failing at a critical time. If Rokuko saw the failure and thought, "Ah, you can't do that after all," it'd be bad. That's my reason.

In other words, I have nothing to do at all. Just watching.

We've prepared some food with the black messenger golem and fodder. I wonder if it'll be enough?

"Hello."

Meat promptly addressed it using the messenger golem. Rin listlessly looked at the golem, immediately followed by opening its red eyes in surprise.

[Wha—, bastard, Kehma!? Why, you should, be eaten!]

Ah, its shape really is the same as the haniwa series after all. It looks the same with just a variation in color huh.

[Why, why are, you alive, Kehma!]

"... That is my Goshujin-sama."

[Hoh, I see. Looking closer, you're black. A different one. But, that guy, is already, my food. So, you, are my, follower.]

“... No? You’re wrong though?”

Strength = Excellence. Yep, the law of the wild. That doesn’t have anything to do with Meat though.

[... Wrong? You swear, loyalty to, that dead guy. Admirable.]

“Yes, I am Goshujin-sama’s, even in death.”

Meat answered Rin’s question in one go... Huh? Just now, didn’t the nuance change a little?

[Is that, so? Then, what is, your business?]

“Become my follower.”

[I refuse! I do not, need, a master!]

Promptly refused. Well, obviously. So it’ll be negotiations from here on huh. Meat manipulated the messenger golem to take out a hamburger.

“You’ll get this delicious hamburger if you join now though?”

[I won’t, accept bait! I’ll eat, you too!]

“Aren’t you hungry? Then how about some candy? It’s sweet and delicious.”

[I said no! Garururu!]

She took out candy, but Rin was already in an enraged state.

Rather, what? This conversation, doesn’t it feel a little out of sync? Oi, Meat. Rin-san’s angry.

“If you don’t need candy, you’ll just become my follower?”

[Ridiculous! If you want me, to become, your follower, defeat me! Then, I’ll consider, it!]

“So you’ll become my follower, then? Thank you very much. Here, a candy.”

[I won’t! I don’t need one! I’ll eat, you!]

And so it chewed up the black messenger golem. Simultaneously with that, Rokuko retrieved Meat and Rei into the master room. Welcome back.

“... It was amused, but it ate me. Next time will be alright.”

“Hey, Meat... Perhaps, can you only understand some of the wolf’s words?”

“? Yes, that’s right.”

She squarely agreed... Yep, that's it.

"... A conversation about coexisting didn't exist there. Rather, it was getting mad. Super mad."

"!? I-it was no good!? Surely it was hiding its embarrassment..."

"It was no good.... Well, it went forward a bit when it said that it'd think about becoming your follower if you defeated it though."

"I-I'm sorry..."

Well, it's alright. According to my original plan... even though it's troublesome... guess I'll negotiate with it... even though it's very troublesome. Haah.

I prepared a not-black messenger golem just in case something like this happened.

"Leave the rest to me."

I patted Meat's head with a small clap and began my preparations for the negotiation.

"Oooi, Rin. Could you wake up? I have something to talk about."

[... Another, new one!?]

When I talked to Rin, Rin looked at the messenger golem with its red eyes.

"Hahaha, I'm Kehma. So how's it going, living comfortably?"

[Kehma!? Why are you, alive!? I ate you!]

"Don't misunderstand. I wouldn't die from something like that. You could eat me again if you'd like?"

[Strange golem... even though, I definitely, ate you.]

Yeah. Even though you ate the golem, the voice actor was still fine.

[Perhaps, that black one, is also alive?]

"Hooh, why?"

[Even though, I ate it, it didn't taste good. Kehma, it was the same, as you. A normal golem's, taste.]

... Do golem's taste differently? Is there a strawberry-tasting golem?

[Kehma is, a unique monster, so I thought, you would have, a delicious, or unusual, taste.]

“I’m made from clay, so I shouldn’t taste any different.”

[Unique monsters, are delicious.]

Maybe its fundamental sense of taste is different? Clay normally wouldn’t taste like anything but clay. I get the feeling that taming it with Japanese cuisine might be a bit hard?

I took out the dog food I brought since I couldn’t use it to try and tame it.

“I brought this, did you want to eat it?”

[What, is it?]

“Food for dogs. It’s fine if you don’t really want to eat it.”

[Don’t want it.]

So it doesn’t want it huh... The heck am I going to do with it now? I can’t feed it to Meat.

“Well, I heard a bit of it, but you said you’d become a follower if you’re defeated, Rin?”

[Motivated?]

“Yeah, though not right now. If it’s for you to be my follower, can I challenge you?”

[Go, ahead. I’m eating you, now.]

Saying that, Rin bared its fangs.

I said not right now!

[Time to eat!]

“... Understood, I’ll come again.”

The heck’s with this guy. I didn’t get to ask about anything serious.

While being dragged back into the master room, I thought about what’s to be done.

Experiment Start

Even though I told Meat something like, “Leave the rest to me,” it just wound up with me getting eaten as usual.

As her Goshujin-sama, I can’t leave her with a bad example!

“... I wonder what I can do~”

I was absorbed in thinking about it while eating onigiri in the dining room. It was a lunch that Kinue-san made. When I bit into one, it had an omelette inside. The heck is she putting in these...? Well, I don’t dislike it though.

Rather, I’ve been thinking how to defeat that wolf... defeat Rin. But I have no clue what’d be effective. I want to investigate a little more first. Alright, let’s start experimenting next.

Still, our DP income exploded upwards with Rin being here. At this point I’m inclining towards wanting to make it a comrade. I can’t sleep quietly because of the uneasy feeling of having that fellow keep staying for a long while though... yep, I want to hurry up and defeat it and turn it into a comrade.

... That guy also hasn’t particularly made any moves against the dungeon core (it’s a dummy one though) huh. It’d be great if we could just get it to promise to keep on not attacking it.

If it turned into a situation of Rin going for the real core in Rokuko’s room, it’d be scary. Like how dangerous it is if a burglar rushes in—well, I don’t think that’ll happen though.

Hmm, I wonder if I should strengthen Rokuko’s room’s security?

Just when I started thinking about that, Gozoh walked into the dining room.

“Oh, Kehma.”

“Hm? Ah, Gozoh. It’s been a while huh. Haven’t seen you in a while.”

“I’ve been spending time at the bar after all! ... I’ve been thinking about accepting that investigation commission, but hey. Want to accept it together?”

“The commission put out from the village? I’m the village chief though.”

Rather, what does he intend to do if something happens to the village chief?

Well, the bar's master—the village sub-chief—would just become the village chief I guess.

"There's nothing saying you can't accept a commission you put out yourself. The guild acknowledged the commission, so adventurers can accept it."

Is that really alright? Couldn't you just put out tons of commissions without having to actually pay anything and rank up super quickly...? Maybe that's the thing aristocrat children use to raise their ranks? It seems like they get ranks as nobles if they have a high rank.

"Raising through the ranks like that's limited at C-Rank though. The guild checks to see whether or not the commission is appropriate, so it can't be too easy of a commission for the rank. You need a recommendation to get B-Rank or higher, and there'd be no meaning if you can't pass the examination."

"So it was something like that huh... But they can still get C-rank huh."

"That much is possible from just getting a rare item or something; they just pay a large sum of money to get it."

But C-Rank huh.

Right now this dungeon's limited to C-Rank, but thinking about being able to buy the privilege of C-Rank and go wherever... that may be good to do, depending on the price. Ah, but there was talk about there being a written test for ranks above C huh. It seems like people that are irregularly strong are exempted though.

"So the commission's asking for what?"

"Aye, the investigation commission is asking to... investigate whether or not there is the existence of a demon that threatens [Cave of Desires] floors two and three."

That didn't answer me at all though...

"Whether or not there's a demon that'll be a threat huh, so how do we go about looking for it?"

"Human wave tactics. If we can't find it in a few days, we'll assume it went back farther inside. By the way, since the transition phase's investigation is going to be held along with this, the compulsory participation in lookout duty will be waived."

"Got it, I'll do it. Can Mea—... can Black and Ichika come along as well?"

Knowing that there won't be anything showing up makes it seriously hard to get through. Moreover, it's cold.

It's troublesome doing work though.

"Aye. I'll be participating together with Roppu after all. We'll all get along; it's been decided that we'll be separating parties in the labyrinth though."

"I'd be relieved if Wataru came too."

... I'd love somehow being able to throw Wataru at Rin... That guy's a hero. He wins in the DP department. He could use some kind of magic that goes bang! Like Thunder Storm or something.

"What are you worried about?"

While sitting down next to me, Gozoh put up a flask of alcohol to his mouth and drank some. A product of the dungeon, a high performance flask that provides a heat insulation function. Among other things, you could put hot sake into it.

"Ah, wait... there was those 'tamers'. What do you know about tamers?"

"Tamers? Those guys that tame monsters? There's stories that they're able to communicate with monsters, but are you thinking of switching?"

"Converse huh, no... well, it's all good. I mean, that's all huh."

"It's hard to learn how to speak to a monster! To buy the skill for it, even a single weak monster's language is ten gold... ah, right. That much is easy for you to take out isn't it, Kehma? Then isn't it fine?"

Eh, so there was a skill for monster languages after all? I didn't check! Let's check secretly so that Gozoh doesn't see... hmm, nope, not there. I wonder if there's some condition to unlock it?

"So, what about slimes?"

"Slime? Ah, they're pretty tough, good against blunt attacks. They're weak to magic though."

"So they're like that huh. Another question, I heard something about slimes normally being trained to take the shape of a wolf or something...?"

"Yeah. You can even keep them inside of a cylinder. They're convenient to carry that way."

"Heeeh.... Wait, wouldn't it turn into a magic sword if you put a small cylindrical

slime into the sword's hilt and had it use magic?"

"Hahaha, what d'you think a magic sword it... hmm? Wait, could you? Huh!? W-wait a sec, I need to talk to Kantra!"

With that, Gozoh dashed out of the dining hall, leaving his flask on the counter.

Huh? Why does it feel like I just accidentally gave him a technological breakthrough? Well, it probably won't be stronger than a magic sword.

Let's tell Meat and Ichika about that commission for now.

... Then maybe I should talk to the guild about me participating in the commission just to make sure. Gozoh even forgot about his alcohol after all.

Well, the commission to search for the demon that appeared and was menacing the second and third floors was settled, they even gave out maps. But for them to make such an accurate map... they've practically found all of the moving and non-moving walls. It's good that it finished easily, but maybe I need to alter the labyrinth area's design? Maybe I'll change some of the wall and wall golems' positions?

While the village's stuff is proceeding smoothly, let's return to the dungeon's side.

It said something about thinking the flavor would be different... maybe I should try seasoning the golem a bit?

Because of that, I made the next haniwa golem with magma in it. Its body's insides are boiling. Let's feed this to Rin.

It looked hot enough to turn my hands into charcoal if I'd touched the magma directly, so I had the golem put the magma into the hollowed out area inside of it that I made, paying careful attention so that none would spill.

"Ooi, Rin. It's lunch time!"

[Kuaah! You're still, alive, after all, Kehma!]

Just as Rin started waking up, I walked in with the messenger golem with magma in it.

"Now then, eat me."

[... Kehma, is your, head alright? Normally, people don't want, to be food.]

It's alright, so please hurry up and eat me. The magma's cooling down.

"Isn't your stomach getting empty? It is right? Besides, you know I won't die even if you eat me."

[Ah, well, then, I'll eat now, but... Kehma, you taste bad.]

"I remembered you say that, so I changed my flavor today. Now then, go on!"

[G-got it. I'll do it now, so... time to eat!]

With a snap, I was eaten in one gulp. I looked for its reaction on the monitor, but it didn't look like it really took any damage.

... Maybe its weak point isn't magma? I was off the mark huh. Or maybe there just wasn't enough?

Well, it's fine. There are still more things to try out.

Next is sulfuric acid, then a strong alkali solution, then various sleeping drugs, there's gotta be something this guy can't eat and I'll find it. Whether this guy becomes a companion or stays as an enemy, its useful knowing its weak spot.

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